

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:
storage means for storing a database including information for discriminating contents duplicated in the past and temporal data as to the time of duplication of said contents in the past,

acquisition means for acquiring the information for discriminating contents to be duplicated;

means for deciding whether or not copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information is allowed in accordance with a comparison between the temporal data stored in the database and current time; and

duplication means for duplicating the contents ~~in association with the discrimination information acquired by said acquisition means and the temporal data held in said storage means wherein duplication of said contents is prohibited if said discriminating information has already been stored in said database and copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information has not been allowed~~ in accordance with said decision whether copying the content is allowed or not,

wherein the duplication of the content is prohibited if an interval of time between the current time and the time of duplication of said content in the past specified by the temporal data stored in the database is less than predetermined amount of time.

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Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An information processing method comprising:

a storage step for storing information for discriminating contents duplicated in the past and temporal data as to the time of duplication of said contents in the past into a database;

an acquisition step for acquiring the information for discriminating contents to be duplicated;

a decision step for deciding whether or not copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information is allowed in accordance with a comparison between the temporal data stored in the database and current time; and

~~a duplication step for duplicating the contents in association with the discrimination information acquired by said acquisition step and the temporal data held as a consequence of said storage step wherein duplication of said contents is prohibited if said discriminating information has already been stored in said database and copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information has not been allowed in accordance with said decision whether copying of the content is allowed or not.~~

wherein the duplication of the content is prohibited if an interval of time between the current time and the time of duplication of said content in the past specified by the temporal data stored in the database is less than predetermined amount of time.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium having stored therein a computer-readable program, said program comprising:

a storage step for storing information for discriminating contents duplicated in the past and temporal data as to the time of duplication of said contents in the past into a database;

an acquisition step for acquiring the information for discriminating contents to be duplicated;

a decision step for deciding whether or not copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information is allowed in accordance with a comparison between the temporal data stored in the database and current time; and

a duplication step for duplicating the contents ~~in association with the discrimination information acquired by said acquisition step and the temporal data held as a consequence of said storage step wherein duplication of said contents is prohibited if said discriminating information has already been stored in said database and copying of the contents discriminated by the discriminating information has not been allowed~~ in accordance with said decision whether copying of the content is allowed or not,

wherein the duplication of the content is prohibited if an interval of time between the current time and the time of duplication of said content in the past specified by the temporal data stored in the database is less than predetermined amount of time.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein

said contents are reproduced from an information storage medium.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 4 wherein

said information recording medium is a compact disc memorizing the music information.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein

the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is the ISRC (International Standard Recording Code).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein

the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is the TOC (Table of Contents).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein

the ISRC (International Standard Recording Code) as the discriminating information for discriminating the contents is read out at said storage step from the information recording medium and, if the ISRC is not stored in said information recording medium, data of the TOC (Table of Contents) is utilized as said discriminating information.

[Claim 9 (Cancelled).]

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The information processing method according to claim 2, further comprising:

a step of checking data in said terminal database; said checking step detecting possible modification using a hash function.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 2 wherein

~~said duplicating step further includes a decision step of comparing the current temporal data to the temporal data of the memorized contents when the discriminating information of said contents acquired at said acquisition step is detected to have been memorized in the past in said storage step to verify whether or not a time period not less than a pre-set time has elapsed~~ said predetermined amount of time is fixed value.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 11 wherein

~~if, as a result of decision at said decision step, said pre-set time has not elapsed, duplication is prohibited~~ said decision step, duplication of the content is allowed if said

discrimination information and temporal data of the content to be duplicated is not stored in the database.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 11 wherein

BT if, ~~as a result of decision at said decision step, said pre-set time has not elapsed, a watermark in said contents is detected and duplication processing is executed based on said watermark~~ further comprising a detection step for detecting a watermark encoded in the content to be duplicated; and

CI wherein said decision in the decision step is made on the basis of the watermarked information if the interval of time between the current time and the time of duplication of said content in the past specified by the temporal data stored in the database is more than predetermined amount of time.

Claim 14 (Cancelled).